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PLYMPTON ST. MARY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Devon



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1956

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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*Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health
are as follows :—*

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKS COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

WATER COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Telephone No. : Plympton 2244

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DR. S. NOY SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Public Health Inspector ;

MR. R. T. FEDRICK, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Petroleum Inspector)

Public Health Inspectors ;

MR. R. OSBORNE

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

MR. E. R. SHEPHERD, M.A.P.H.I.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

Clerk :

MISS G. H. PROWSE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1956.

This was the first year in which inoculations against poliomyelitis were given by the County Health Department.

There was one case of Diphtheria in the district, the first for several years.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—66,600 acres, of which 174 are inland water.

Population—1951 Census	31,820
Population estimated to the middle of 1956	33,610
Rateable Value	£391,249
Amount produced by a 1d. Rate	£886. 0s. 6d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

Live Births

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Legitimate	457	220	237	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation, 13.89
Illegitimate	10	6	4	
	—	—	—	
	467	226	241	
	—	—	—	

Still Births 21 13 8 Rate per 1,000 total (live
and still) births, 43.03.

Deaths 413 199 214 Death Rate per 1,000 of
the estimated resident
population, 12.28.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	12.84
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	13.12
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	NIL

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	8.56
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	8.75
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1956	1955
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3	7	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	1	1	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1956	1955
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	4
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			...	8	2	10	13
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	6	4	10	15
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...			...	—	10	10	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...			...	—	6	6	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	20	17	37	31
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...		...	...	1	1	2	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	5	7	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system					31	32	63	66
18. Coronary disease, angina	...				43	26	69	69
19. Hypertension with heart disease					4	10	14	10
20. Other heart disease	...		...	...	23	32	55	51
21. Other circulatory disease	...			...	14	12	26	19
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	10	17	18
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	5	9	16
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum					—	—	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea					—	—	—	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...				6	1	7	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...				1	—	1	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion					—	—	—	1
31. Congenital malformations	...				1	1	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	12	26	38	38
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...		...	...	—	1	1	4
34. All other accidents	...		...	...	3	5	8	7
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	5	2	7	6
36. Homicide and operations of war					—	—	—	1
					199	214	413	400

Deaths over 65

There were 312, viz.: 49 between 65 and 70

75	„	70	„	75
67	„	75	„	80
62	„	80	„	85
40	„	85	„	90
18	„	90	„	95
1	„	95	„	100

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The total number of notifications was 404, as compared with 852 during the previous year.

Scarlet Fever

16 cases were notified as compared with 41 during the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in the parishes of Plymstock (8) and Plympton St. Mary (6). The disease was of a very mild character

Diphtheria

3 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, but in 2 cases the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Acute Poliomyelitis

2 cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed in either case.

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors.

Tuberculosis (*see pages 11 and 12*)

With regard to the extent of notification before death, the following table shows the date of notification:—

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date Notified</i>	<i>Died</i>
F.	58	28.1.39	29.1.56
M.	62	17.1.49	12.12.56
F.	61	24.1.56	8.2.56
M.	72	20.4.56	14.7.56
M.	70	21.6.56	5.7.56

The remaining cases were not notified in this district previous to death.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1956.

DISEASE.	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Plympton St. Mary	Plympton St. Maurice	Plymstock	Shaugh Prior	Wembury	Yealmlpton	Totals
SCARLET FEVER ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	8	1	1	-	16
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
PNEUMONIA ...	1	2	5	4	-	1	8	3	10	-	4	1	-	7	46
ERYSIPELAS ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	8
WHOOPING COUGH ...	-	-	4	7	-	7	15	38	78	30	95	-	3	5	282
MEASLES ...	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	2	-	14	1	3	4	31
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
FOOD POISONING ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
DYSENTERY ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
DIPHTHERIA ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
PARATYPHOID B. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
TOTALS ...	1	2	12	12	-	8	27	49	98	30	133	4	7	21	404

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES						DEATHS						Total No. of Cases	Total No. of Deaths
	PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.			PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Under 1 Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
15-20	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
20-25	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
25-35	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
35-45	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
45-55	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
55-65	2	1	3	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	3	4
65 and upwards	3	1	4	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	5	2
TOTALS	15	9	24	1	2	3	4	3	7	-	-	-	27	7

With regard to Tuberculosis affecting employees in the milk trade, no case had to be dealt with, nor had any action to be taken with regard to the compulsory removal to Hospital under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Nursing Arrangements.—(Devon County Council). There are now 10 District Nurse/Midwives working in the area and 1 General Trained Nurse. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officer.

Midwives.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. In addition to the 10 County Midwives there are 2 Private Midwives practising in the area. All 10 County Midwives are qualified to give Gas and Air Analgesia.

Health Visitors.—There are three working in the Plympton Area who carry out all duties under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Devon County Council have six centres in the District: Plympton, Plymstock, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Hooe and Turnchapel, and Roborough.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Where on account of the difficulty of travelling or other reason a patient is unable to attend the Centre, free treatment can be obtained from certain specified general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226.

In-patient Orthopaedic Treatment is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association at Exeter, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-patients the South West Clinic which deals with this district is held at Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

X-rays.—The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases are admitted at any time to the Treatment Centre, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

Tuberculosis.—The Regional Hospital Board have Sanatoria at Hawkmoor, Hawley and Didworthy.

Open-Air School.—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

General Hospitals, used by residents:—

South Devon and East Cornwall, Greenbank Road, Plymouth.

„ „ Devonport.

„ „ Lockyer Street, Plymouth.

„ „ Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

The Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

Plympton Hospital, Plympton.

The Convalescent Home, Crownhill.

Isolation Hospital.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

Ambulance Facilities for Infectious Cases.—The Minister of Health has agreed to infectious patients being taken to the Isolation Hospital by the Plympton Ambulance Station.

Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents.—As from 1st January, 1951, an Ambulance Station was established at Harewood House, Plympton, by the Devon County Council through the agency of the British Red Cross Society, and deals with all cases and accidents.

Laboratory Work.—The Public Health Laboratory Service established a new laboratory in the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank Road, Plymouth, on June 3rd, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and for the examination of milk, water, ice cream and foodstuffs. We have received the greatest assistance and co-operation from this service.

Consultants.—Consultants are now obtained through the services of the Regional Hospital Board.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out through the general practitioner service, or at schools, school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services.

Provision of Vaccine and Anti-Toxin.—Supplies of diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No cases were dealt with during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Main Supplies.—These are obtained from Yealm, Erme and Harford, all of which are chlorinated and treated with lime. The final stage of the new trunk main to Elburton was completed during the year giving considerable benefit to the Newton Ferrers area. Work on the second stage was well advanced by December, 1956.

It is estimated that of the houses in the district:—

90% are served by mains;

5% by standpipe;

5% from private sources.

Water Sampling

During the year, 104 samples were taken. 98 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 3 samples for chemical analysis.

The following table shows the results of the samples taken for bacteriological examination:—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.</i>			
		<i>Class 1 (less than 1)</i>	<i>Class 2 (1–2)</i>	<i>Class 3 (3–10)</i>	<i>Class 4 (Greater than 10)</i>
HARFORD ...	17	13	2	1	1
ERME HEAD ...	23	22	—	1	—
YEALM HEAD ...	21	20	—	1	—
OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPLIES ...	37	9	6	4	18
TOTALS ...	98	64	8	7	19

3 samples from the main supplies were submitted for examination for plumbo solvency, to ensure that the preventive measures to restrain corrosive action were effective.

Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows:—

Bickleigh. Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

Brixton. Supplied from Council's Yealm supply. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are two standpipes in the village.

Cornwood. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have a piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Lutton. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have piped supply. There are six standpipes in the village.

Ermington. Supplied from Erme supply. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Westlake and Longbrook are supplied by well and pump.

Harford. Few houses—have own supply from spring (private).

Holbeton. Supplied from local springs, piped to village. A few houses have a piped supply, but most of the cottages are supplied from standpipes.

Ivybridge. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir and also Erme supply. Most houses have piped supply.

Newton and Noss. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply.

There are ten standpipes at Newton Ferrers, and five standpipes at Noss Mayo which supply the older cottages.

Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supply.

Sparkwell. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes which supply the older cottages.

Lee Mill. Supplied from Erme Supply. Some of the houses have piped supply. There are seven standpipes in the village.

Mount Pleasant and Venton. Supplied from local springs by pump and standpipes.

Plymstock. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are six standpipes at Lower Hooe and Turnchapel.

Staddiscombe. Some of the cottages have piped supply: There are three standpipes in the village.

Shaugh Prior. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

Wotter. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes which supply cottages of English Clays Ltd.

Wembury. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Down Thomas. Supplied from Yealm source. Most houses have piped supply.

Yealmpton. Supplied from local springs, augmented from Yealm source in dry periods. Most houses have piped supply. There are eight standpipes in the village.

Dunstone. Supplied from local springs. Several cottages have piped supply. There are five standpipes in the village.

All the villages consisting of more than a dozen houses have a piped supply.

All supplies during the year were good, except at Dunstone and Holbeton where the springs partially failed during the summer.

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following details of work carried out in his Department during the year, in relation to Public Health.

Water Supply

Water main extensions at:—

Yealmpton Torre.
 Lucas Lane, Plympton.
 Rocky Park Avenue, Plymstock.
 Rocky Park Road, Plymstock.
 Woodford Estate, Plympton.
 Grange Estate, Plympton.
 Crown Yealm Estate, Newton Ferrers.
 Radford Park Estate, Plymstock.
 Abovetown Estate, Plymstock.
 Sherford Crescent, Elburton.
 Clifton Estate, Plympton.
 Lower Woodford Estate, Plympton.
 Langdon Court—Wembury Point.
 Woodland Road, Plymstock.
 Cott Hill, Plympton.
 Woburn Terrace, Oreston.
 Newnham Road, Plympton.
 Thornyville Estate, Oreston.
 Chaddlewood Estate, Plympton.
 Revell Park Estate.

Water mains renewed at:—Dean Hill, Plymstock.

Oreston Road, Plymstock.

WATER CONNECTIONS 1956

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Connections during 1956</i>			<i>Total connections as at 31.12.56</i>		
	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>
Brixton	5	1	6	236	24	260
Cornwood	4	3	7	215	12	227
Ermington	2	—	2	118	19	137
Harford	—	—	—	—	2	2
Holbeton	2	—	2	101	10	111
Ivybridge... ..	5	3	8	462	32	494
Newton and Noss...	10	1	11	471	26	497
Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice	210	13	223	2971	146	3117
Plymstock	100	6	106	3609	148	3757
Shaugh Prior	2	1	3	60	13	73
Wembury	10	4	14	302	51	353
Yealmpton	3	2	5	253	22	275
TOTALS	353	34	387	8798	505	9303

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work continued on Plympton Sewage Disposal Works.

Schemes for Yealmpton and Ermington subject to Ministry enquiry and subsequently approved but starting date not allocated.

Work at Lee Moor commenced.

Preliminary investigations for Plymstock Main Drainage Scheme continued.

Refuse Disposal

Tipping continued at Linketty Lane.

We have continued to afford a weekly collection of household refuse to the whole district except a few isolated properties.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL HOUSES DURING 1956

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Plans Approved</i>	<i>Repre- senting No. of Houses</i>	<i>Houses Com- pleted</i>	<i>Layout Plans Approved</i>
Brixton	1	1	2	—
Cornwood	1	1	1	—
Ermington	2	2	1	—
Holbeton	1	1	—	—
Newton and Noss	9	9	7	—
Plympton St. Mary... ..	19	42	188	1
Plympton St. Maurice	—	—	3	—
Plymstock	44	230	104	6
Shaugh Prior	1	1	—	—
Wembury	9	9	8	—
Yealmpton	1	1	1	—
TOTAL	87	296	315	7

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PARTS 2 & 3**Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Sec. 1**

The Council appointed a Housing Sub-Committee to view properties which, as a result of inspections under the Rural Housing Survey, had been placed in low categories.

In October, 1956, official representations were made in respect of 8 Clearance Areas, comprising 56 houses, and the following month Clearance Orders were made and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

I am indebted to the Housing Officer for the following information.

Pre-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied up to the commencement of the war in 1939 was 367, excluding houses transferred to Plymouth.

Post-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied during the post-war period up to December 31st, 1956, is as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>				<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Bickleigh	...	Leatside (Roborough)	...	...	8
Brixton	...	Bellows Park	...	...	70
					(including 2 shops)
Cornwood	...	Newtown	...	...	6
Do.	...	Crossways	...	...	16
Ermington	...	Ermeside Cottages	...	...	6
Holbeton	...	Orchard Cottages	...	...	8
Do.	...	1 and 2 Fore Street	...	...	2
Ivybridge	...	New Estate	...	...	108
					(including 2 shops)
Newton and Noss		Hillside Cottages	...	...	6
Do.	...	Butts Park	...	...	20
Plympton St. Mary		New Park (Lee Mill)	...	...	16
Do.	...	George Avenue	...	...	20
Do.	...	Woodford	...	...	114
					(including 1 shop)
Plympton St. Maurice		New Estate	...	...	174
					(including 2 shops)
Plymstock	...	Pomphlett Close	...	...	60
Do.	...	Hooe Estate	...	...	94
					(including 2 shops)
Do.	...	Hooe Manor Estate	...	...	136
Do.	...	Wembury Road (Elburton)	...	...	26

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Shaugh Prior	...	Trethewey Gardens (Wotter)				30
Wembury	...	Uplands	...	...	...	6
Yealmpton	...	Yeo Park	...	...	...	6
Do.	...	Yealm Park	...	...	...	38
<i>Total Dwellings</i> ...						<u>970</u>

There were no houses under construction at the 31st December, 1956.

Further contracts in course of preparation are as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Plymstock	...	Oreston	...	...	...	42
Shaugh Prior	...	Lee Moor	...	...	...	28
<i>Total Dwellings</i> ...						<u>70</u>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecut'd (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	29	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	47	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	2	—	—
<i>Total</i>	146	59	1	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7) :					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i> ...	3	3	-	1	-

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1956.

Owing to illness the Department was understaffed for approximately 3 months of the year, and this retarded work, principally in connection with Slum Clearance and the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

In August, by Act of Parliament, the designation Sanitary Inspector was changed to Public Health Inspector, a title which is considered to be more in keeping with the duties performed.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	35
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1936	...	...	184
Total visits for housing purposes	...	...	1,480
Visits in connection with Council house applications	...	...	36
Factories	...	...	23
Food Premises	...	...	113
Slaughterhouses, farms, etc.	...	...	937
Dairies	...	...	21
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936	...	...	65
Explosives	...	...	2
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	40
Water Supplies and Sampling	...	...	163
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	19
Nuisances investigated	...	...	170
Camps inspected	...	...	2
Rodent Control	...	...	3
Drainage work	...	...	111
Total number of visits for all purposes during the year	...	...	3,094

HOUSING

Housing Act, 1949. During the year, 19 applications for Grant were received; 19 were approved, but subsequently 3 were withdrawn. Improvements were carried out at 25 houses, which included some left over from 1955, and in some the work is either in hand or not started yet.

4 applicants were advised an application would be unlikely to be approved by the Council.

In addition, 71 other enquiries were received and advice given.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It is the duty of every Local Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who dies or is found dead in their area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. It was not necessary to do so during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1952

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952. It is necessary for a person keeping a Pet Shop to be licensed by the Council. 2 licences were granted during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) <i>Agri- cultural</i>
	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>			
		(2) <i>Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)</i>	(3) <i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3)</i>	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District. (Notes 1 and 2)	40 <i>(approx.)</i>	11,250 <i>(approx.)</i>	550 <i>(approx.)</i>	11,840 <i>(approx.)</i>	635 <i>(approx.)</i>
2. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> as a result of:					
(a) Notification	15	164	16	195	—
(b) Survey under the Act	23	418	111	552	89
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	2	—	3	5	3
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	110	3,256	126	3,492	93
4. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> (in Section 2) which were found to be <i>infested</i> by:					
(a) Rats { Major	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor	8	204	10	222	2
(b) Mice { Major	—	6	1	7	—
{ Minor	—	31	2	33	—
5. Number of <i>infested properties</i> (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority (figures should NOT exceed those given at Section 4)	8	241	13	262	2
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	18	293	18	329	2
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act: ...					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of “block” control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

FIREGUARDS ACT, 1953

This Act came into operation on 1st October, 1953. The Act and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder make provision for the fitting of guards of approved type to all heating appliances.

All appliances manufactured after 1st October, 1953, must comply with the provisions of the Act and the provisions apply to all fires, etc., sold by retail after 1st October, 1954.

Visits have been paid to all known dealers in such appliances and the provisions have been explained to them.

RODENT CONTROL

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, no charge was made for work carried out at private dwellings but the full cost of work at business premises was recovered.

Co-operation has been maintained with the officials of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and their advice is always appreciated.

Annual Test Baiting was carried out in April-May in thirty sewerage systems. As a result it was necessary to carry out a maintenance treatment in May-June in seventeen systems. The second maintenance treatment was carried out in November-December in seventeen systems. The Council's Sewage Disposal Works were treated on seventeen occasions and Refuse Tips on eleven occasions.

Details of the work carried out during the year can be seen from the table.

In addition, inspections were made as follows:—

Local Authority Properties, 122; Private dwellings, 4,026; Agricultural Holdings, 131, and Business Premises, 161.

The work was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator, assisted part time by another workman in the Department.

The methods advocated by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the extermination of rats and mice were used, the bait bases being damp sausage rusk, bread mash, oatmeal and sugar meal, and the poisons Zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide, red squill powder, Antu (alpha-naphthyl-thiourea) and Warfarin.

FOOD

Slaughterhouses

Five applications for the renewal of licence were received, all of which were granted. A large bacon factory was built during the year and came into use in February, 1957.

During the year visits were made as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	937
Occasional Slaughter		5
Total	...	<u>942</u>

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	449	57	99	961	5,452
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	4	12	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	67	13	5	25	253
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	15.1	24.5	9.09	3.8	4.7
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	6	—	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	4	—	—	357
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.0	17.5	—	—	6.6
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of carcasses and organs found to be diseased, and voluntarily surrendered, was 7 tons, 12 cwts., 0 qrs., 17 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Milk

The number of dairies and distributors registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, are as follows:—

Dairies	...	...	17
Distributors	...	...	28
			—
			45
			—

Twenty-one visits of inspection were made during the year.

The following licences were issued to dealers under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954, and Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953, during the year:—

Dealers' Licences	...	T.T.	...	18
		Pasteurised		18
		Sterilised	...	4
Supplementary Licences		T.T.	...	5
		Pasteurised		5
		Sterilised	...	1

Other Foods

The following table indicates the approximate number of food premises in the area, by type of business:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	25
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	12
Ice Cream	(a) Manufacturers	2	}	...	109
	(b) Sale	...			
		107			
General Stores	...	...	...	...	134
Dairies	(a) Distributors	28	}	...	45
	(b) Dairies	...			
		17			
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	21
Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	...	61
					—
					418
					—

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:—

The manufacture of Ice Cream for sale ...	2
The sale of Ice Cream	107
The manufacture of Preserved Food ...	46
	—
	155
	—

113 visits were made to food premises during the year, and a total weight of 5 cwts. 1 qr. 17 lbs. of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

During the year, 6 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream.

Twenty samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:—

PROVISIONAL GRADINGS.

<i>Time taken to reduce</i>				
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Methylene Blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>		<i>Result</i>
1	4½ hrs. or more	Satisfactory ...	...	15
2	2½ hrs.—4 hrs.	Fair ... ..	...	1
3	½ hr.—2 hrs.	Unsatisfactory	...	3
4	0 hrs.	Very bad. ...	...	1
				—
				20
				—

Byelaws as to the handling and sale of food are in force in the Rural District. Minor contraventions were detected, but these were quickly rectified when the shopkeepers were notified.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCES

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1956, to the 31st March, 1957.

Petroleum Spirit

Number of licences renewed during the above period ...	66
Number of new licences issued during the above period	1
Number of licences transferred	1

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. FEDRICK,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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